THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) The work has been completed.

" (b) 110 acres.

" (c) Rs. 40,000 for works or Rs. 52,043 inclusive of direct and indirect charges.

" (d) No scheme is under investigation at present."

Payment of risk allowance to the staff of the Mental Hospital, Kilpauk, Madras.

* 1252 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the doctors and nurses in the Mental Hospital, Kilpauk, Madras, are paid any risk allowance.

(b) whether this allowance is granted to the menial staff also; and

(c) if not, why?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) Does not arise."

Showing of special treatment for the South Arcot district.

* 1253 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any understanding between the Chief Minister and the Minister for Local Boards to the effect that special consideration will be shown to the South Arcot district; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted it as their policy and the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் S. S. ராமசாமி படையாச்சி அவர்கள் மந்திரி சபைக்கு அழைக்கப் படும் முன் வேறு எந்த முறையிலாவது விசேஷமான உறுதி மொழி கொடுக்கப்பட்டதா ? அப்படியானால் அதன் விவரம் என்ன ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The present question does not arise out of the main question. The main question was whether any special treatment was shown to South Arcot district and I have answered 'no' to that question."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In the year 1952, the Communist Party together with some of the other parties in the Opposition tried to form a Ministry but they failed. May I know from the Hon. Minister what was the understanding arrived at between the Communist Party and other parties at that time? " (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" What has that to do with the main question? Anyhow, if the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister, even though the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has put this question, whether there is any assurance given by Government to show due consideration to South Arcot district, including special consideration whenever necessary? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Of course, whatever is necessary and whatever is possible will be done to South Arcot district. That is not because Sri Ramasami Padayachi is here as a Minister. Even if he is not here whatever necessary will be done."

SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN :—" தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவிற்குக் கொடுத்துவந்த சாதாரணச் சலுகைகள்கூட தற்போது குறைந்துவிட்டன என்பது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா என்று கேட்க விரும்புகிறேன்." (சிரிப்பு.)

Improvement of the Laccadive islands.

11-50 a.m. * 1254 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have appointed any Special Officer to go into the condition of the people residing in Laccadive islands;

(*b*) if so, what are his recommendations; and

(*c*) whether the Government have taken any steps to carry out his recommendations, if any?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) In December 1951 a special Inspecting Officer was deputed to the Laccadive and Amindivi Islands to report on the reorganisation of the administration of the islands and the uplift of the islanders.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Attention of the Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 751 by Sri M. S. Mogral, M.L.A., answered on 13th May 1954."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Special Officer has recommended the running of a steam ferry boat between the main land and the islands in order to maintain communications between the two and meet the needs of the travelling public? Will the Hon. Minister take immediate steps in this matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Steps are being taken to institute a steamer service between the Laccadive islands and the mainland."